

Meeting Minutes Delaware Population Consortium

June 21, 2006

10:00 a.m.

Haslet Armory

Dover, DE

In Attendance:

Kelly Crumply – Kent Co.

Derrick Lightfoot, AICP – City of
Wilmington

Mike Mahaffie – State Planning
Coordination

Renee Dixon – State Planning Coordination

Ed Ratledge – University of Delaware

Don Berry – Department of Education

Juanita Wieczoreck – D/KC MPO

Dan Blevins – WILMAPCO

Janelle Cornwell – City of Dover

Javier Arce – DSHA

Barbara Gladders – Public Health

Owen Robatino – New Castle Co.

Mike Duross – DelDOT

Ric Kautz – Sussex Co.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:05 a.m. Mike Mahaffie distributed a data release of municipal population estimates from the Census Bureau. There was a round of introductions.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2006

Don Berry moved to approve the minutes of the May 3 meeting. Mike Mahaffie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

State and Census Bureau Information Variance

Barbara Gladders discussed the issue of variation between the Birth/Death data kept by the Division of Public Health and by the U.S. Census Bureau. Barbara and Mike Mahaffie have discussed working with the Census Bureau to have them use data from DPH. This is an issue of institutional relationships that need to change now that the State Data Center program has moved from DEDO to OMB.

Ed Ratledge noted that the numbers from the Census Bureau change every year which affects migration numbers. Over the last five years, these numbers have drastically changed. The Census Bureau finalizes their data by August of the following year.

Kelly Crumply asked whether the state's data is the more reliable. Barbbra and Ed agreed that it is.

Mike Mahaffie raised the question if it would be useful to have someone from the Census Bureau of Philadelphia occasionally sit in on DPC meetings.

Certificate of Occupancy Tracking

Mike Mahaffie discussed a new project being planned by the State and the three counties to create a regular report of Certificates of Occupancy (COs), by location. Mike has distributed a one-page brief on the project to the county partners for comments. The plan is to report COs every quarter, starting with the first quarter of 2006. The data will be aggregated to the Modified Grid geography.

There was a discussion on the challenges of creating these reports. It is generally felt that this will be more of a challenge for Kent and Sussex Counties.

Kelly Crumply noted that Kent County has a new assistant planning director, Mary Ellen Gray, who will help organize Kent County's work on the project.

WILMAPCO Data and Demographics Subcommittee

Dan Blevins gave a summary of how WILMAPCO's Data and Demographics Subcommittee came to be and how it operates.

There was a discussion of how the processes and procedures of the WILMAPCO group might be useful for the Dover/Kent County MPO or for Sussex County government.

Ed Ratledge noted that Sussex County is more complex, since it has such a large seasonal population component.

Mike Mahaffie suggested to Ric Kautz the possibility of having State Planning Director Connie Holland speak with the new County Administrator, David Baker, in support of County staff working on such a group.

It was generally agreed that this process needs organization to be successful.

Draft 2006 Projections

At this time there is no new information to report.

At the May 3 meeting Ed Ratledge discussed the draft 2006 projections and is waiting to hear comments back, especially from county planners. The group agreed on a deadline of July 31 for comments on that draft. Ed also requested comments back on probable distribution of population, by Census County Division.

The next meeting has been set for 10:00 a.m., August 10, 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.